

**ATTACHMENT 5:**

**SUMMARY OF COMMENTS RECEIVED ON THE  
FINAL SOUTH POWDER RIVER BASIN COAL  
ENVIRONMENTAL IMPACT STATEMENT**

**ATTACHMENT 5  
FINAL SOUTH POWDER RIVER BASIN COAL EIS  
COMMENT SUMMARY**

<b>Comment Number Agency, Organization, or Individual</b>	<b>Commenter Issues or Concerns</b>
<b>FEIS-1:</b> Wendell Funk Palmyra, IL	Research area is needed. Mining destroys landscape and results in consumption of coal resources. Energy conservation should be used to meet energy needs. Income to State and Federal governments is not significant. Fossil fuel consumption is causing climatic changes.
<b>FEIS-2:</b> Converse County Commissioners Office Douglas, WY	Converse County Commissioners support the continued offering of Federal coal leases and positive and proactive land management; they request that BLM provide rationale in decision documents for any decisions to reduce the size of proposed lease tracts.
<b>FEIS-3:</b> Converse Area New Development Organization (CANDO) Douglas, WY	CANDO supports: - Federal coal leasing in the Powder River Basin, - proper land and resource management, and - maximizing lease size & tonnage.
<b>FEIS-4:</b> Representative Fred Parady Rock Springs WY	Federal coal leasing in the Powder River Basin over the past decade has produced revenue streams which have been invested in infrastructure needed to educate youth and build communities. Leasing Federal coal tracts is crucial to future of coal mining operations and education and infrastructure for the State of Wyoming.
<b>FEIS-5:</b> Wyoming Department of Education Superintendent Trent Blankenship Cheyenne, WY	The Wyoming Department of Education supports leasing five tracts of Federal coal in the southern Powder River Basin. Past coal bonus bids have helped the State address K-12 capital construction needs and are important in addressing future K-12 capital construction needs.

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<b>FEIS-6</b> Office of State Lands and Investments Director Lynne Boomgaarden Cheyenne, WY	The Proposed Action of leasing the Federal coal tracts will not have a significant direct impact on the natural resource values under the jurisdiction of the Office of State Lands and Investments.  The Office of State Lands and Investments does not have specific concerns if access to State lands is not restricted and State is not precluded from developing its interests in area.
<b>FEIS-7</b> Powder River Coal Company Ian Craig, President Gillette, WY	Powder River Coal Company provides information to clarify: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- the status of conflict negotiations with conventional oil and gas well operator Tindall Operating Company and</li> <li>- the status of wetland inventories on portions of the NARO South LBA Tract.</li> </ul>
<b>FEIS-8</b> M&K Oil Company Jim McLeland, President Gillette, WY	M&K Oil Company Identifies: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- the presence of a conventional oil and gas well owned and operated by M&amp;K within the proposed West Roundup LBA Tract and</li> <li>- the need for mine-through agreement with coal lessee.</li> </ul>
<b>FEIS-9</b> Maxim Drilling and Exploration John C. Corkery, President Gillette, WY	Maxim Drilling and Exploration Identifies the need to relocate gas gathering pipeline operated by Kinder Morgan on Little Thunder LBA Tract in order to avoid disruption of gas gathering service to a Maxim gas well.
<b>FEIS-10</b> Maxim Drilling and Exploration John C. Corkery, President Gillette, WY	Maxim Drilling and Exploration identifies the need to relocate gas gathering pipeline operated by Kinder Morgan on West Antelope LBA Tract in order to avoid disruption of gas gathering service to Maxim gas wells.
<b>FEIS-11</b> Wyoming Game and Fish Dept. Bill Wichers Cheyenne, WY	Wyoming Game and Fish Department has concerns about: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- disruption of ambient habitat conditions for native aquatic species if flows in ephemeral streams increase as a result of CBM discharge,</li> <li>- lack of data on aquatic species, and</li> <li>- the need to include aquatic and wetland species monitoring in annual mine wildlife surveys.</li> </ul>

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<b>FEIS-12</b> Dept. of the Army/Corps of Engineers Chandler Peter Cheyenne, WY	The Army Corps of Engineers provides information correcting their comments on Draft EIS pertaining to status of wetland determinations on NARO South LBA Tract.
<b>FEIS-13</b> Honorable Dave Freudenthal Governor of Wyoming Cheyenne, WY	Governor Freudenthal supports leasing five tracts of Federal coal in the Powder River Basin and expresses confidence in the ability of the Wyoming Department of Environmental Quality's ability to both ensure regulatory compliance in permitting coal mining in the Powder River Basin and maintain cooperative relationships with Federal agencies and coal-mining companies.  Wyoming's has a successful history in developing coal resources and protecting the environment.  Federal coal is important to Local and State economies and the national power supply.
<b>FEIS-14</b> Campbell County Commissioners Gillette, WY	The Campbell County Commissioners support leasing Federal coal in the Powder River Basin. Mining is important to employment and economy in the County and State.  The existing cooperative working relationship between the County, coal mining operators and CBM producers is critical to the county and the industry.
<b>FEIS-15</b> Kennecott Energy Patricia Britton, Vice President, Law & Government Affairs Gillette, WY	Kennecott Energy supports the selection of Final EIS Alternative 3 for the Little Thunder LBA Tract, which would result in splitting the tract and offering two tracts for lease.

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<p><b>FEIS-16</b> Ducker, Montgomery, Lewis, &amp; Aronstein, P.C. James K. Aronstein Denver, CO</p>	<p>Surface coal mining within the West Roundup LBA Tract would cause destruction of the CBM reservoir and venting, drainage, and waste of the CBM reserve on and around the tract.</p> <p>Leasing the Federal coal in the West Roundup LBA Tract will impact the rights of the senior oil and gas lessee.</p> <p>There are legal authorities establishing rights of senior oil and gas lessee.</p> <p>BLM must comply with the applicable land use plans.</p> <p>Methane is a greenhouse gas which contributes to global warming when it is vented.</p> <p>CBM is a clean burning fuel which should be utilized to meet society's energy needs instead of being vented.</p>
<p><b>FEIS-17</b> Office of the State Treasurer State of Wyoming Cynthia Lummis, State Treasurer Cheyenne, WY</p>	<p>The State Treasurer supports leasing Federal coal in the Powder River Basin.</p> <p>Coal mining is important as a source of primary and secondary jobs in the State and revenue for K-12 capital construction, community colleges, cities, and counties.</p> <p>Severance taxes generated when coal is mined are invested in Wyoming's Permanent Mineral Trust Fund.</p>
<p><b>FEIS-18</b> Powder River Basin Resource Council Gillian Malone Sheridan, WY</p>	<p>Powder River Basin Resource Council is concerned about:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Cumulative impact of CBM development and coal mining on groundwater quantity and quality, surface water quantity and quality, air quality,</li> <li>- Adverse health effects of NO<sub>x</sub> from coal mine blasting on infants, the elderly, and other sensitive members of the population,</li> <li>- Effects of drought on revegetation efforts and potential for invasion of noxious weeds,</li> <li>- Impact of mining activity on sage grouse, and</li> <li>- Cumulative impact of increased employment on housing availability in Gillette.</li> </ul>

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<b>FEIS-19</b> Environmental Protection Agency Region 8 Larry Svoboda Denver, CO	EPA is concerned with: - Air quality degradation in the Powder River Basin, including exceedances of PM <sub>10</sub> 24-hour standard at several mines and predicted cumulative near field impacts over the level of the PSD Class II increments for PM <sub>10</sub> and NO <sub>2</sub> and - The level and types of mitigation that should be implemented to reduce air quality impacts.
<b>FEIS-20</b> Wyoming State Historic Preservation Office Richard L. Currit Cheyenne, WY	National Register of Historic Places consultation must be completed prior to approval of the Mineral Leasing Act Mining Plan.
<b>FEIS-21</b> Tindall Operating Company R. Lee Tucker Englewood, CO	Tindall Operating Company withdraws objections to the NARO North Coal Lease Application following resolution of issues between relevant parties.